Opening of new depots by DMS

2865. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of new depots opened by the Delhi Milk Scheme during the last six months for sale of milk;

(b) what was the sale of milk before and after opening of the said depots;

(c) what is the amount of loss incurred by the Delhi Milk Scheme as a result of opening of new depot; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against the officials concerned for opening of new depots and to curb such losses in future.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) During the last six months DMS has not opened new depots of its own for sale of milk. However, 343 new sale points at shops, housing societies etc. have been started.

(b) Approximately 18,350 litres of additional milk per day is being sold from these new sale points.

(c) No losses have been incurred by DMS as a result of opening of new sale points.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

Benefit of package to farmers

† 2866. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the news-item which

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

appeared in the *Dainik Jagran' dated the 20th January, 2001 under the caption "Majbooran sasta dhaan bechne per kisano ko package ka laabh jald milne ke aasaar kum";

(b) whether Government propose to take any action and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In order to reduce the hardship of farmers and to ensure procurement of paddy by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies the Government has extended the following concessions in Punjab during Kharif marketing Season 2000-01;

(i) The procurement of paddy has been permitted with damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains upto a maximum limit of 8 per cent instead of 3 per cent provided under the Uniform (FAQ) specifications;

(ii) Paddy conforming to the above specification will be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP);

(iii) Out turn ratio for custom milling of such relaxed paddy will be 64 per cent for raw and 65 per cent for par-boiled;

(iv) It will be State Government's responsibility to get the paddy milled and deliver rice strictly conforming to the uniform specifications well within the current Kharif Marketing Season; and

(v) It has also been agreed that the farmers of Punjab, whose paddy had been purchased at a price below MSP, the State Government would make good the difference. The expenditure arising out of this differential shall be restricted to a maximum of Rs. 100 crores. The Ministry of Finance shall compensate to the Government of Punjab for this expenditure to an extend of 50 per cent.